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PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW, INCLUDING SYSTEM-WIDE ISSUES

Contribution of UNIDO to the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

Report by the Director-General

Summary

Updates the information provided in document IDB.17/7.

I. BACKGROUND

1. In decision IDB.11/Dec.7, the Board requested the Director-General, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 47/100, to designate an agenda item for the Board to consider the contribution of UNIDO to the System-Wide Action Plan for Drug Abuse Control and to ensure that activities relating to drug abuse control be reflected in the relevant programmes. In its decision IDB.12/Dec.7, the Board requested the Director-General to continue incorporating into the UNIDO work programme the mandates and activities contained in the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and urged him to cooperate with other United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), on matters related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

2. Subsequent developments in UNIDO led to the identification of more focused technical cooperation. A set of technical cooperation service modules, representing UNIDO's approach to address areas of major concern in industrial development, was designed to make maximum use of the limited resources available to the Organization within the programme and budgets approved for the current biennium.

3. Against that background, in a letter dated 10 July 1998 to the Executive Director of UNDCP, the Director-General referred to recent UNIDO efforts to focus on packages of industry-specific services. UNDCP was informed that no specific drug-related activities were currently foreseen for UNIDO. Similar information was included in a letter dated 17 August 1998 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations within the context of

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follow-up activities to the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem.

4. None the less, opportunities for interaction and synergy in the context of efforts directed at curbing drug supply and demand may arise through the implementation of UNIDO's packages of industry-specific services, for instance in agro-industries and entrepreneurship development. In this event, appropriate information would be provided to the Board and to other relevant fora.

II. RECENT UNIDO ACTIVITIES

5. In continuation of its collaboration with UNDCP, UNIDO participated in the implementation of a poppy reduction project, 1997-2000, in Afghanistan, the preparatory assistance concept for which was referred to in document IDB.17/7. Completed in November 1997, the project objective was to review existing and contemplated value-added activities in the provinces of Kandahar and Nangarhar, with particular emphasis on agro-processing, identifying opportunities for UNIDO/UNDCP intervention and preparing an appropriate plan of action. The plan of action not only addressed policies, priorities and their timing, but also incorporated specific assessment and subsequent presentation of selected initiatives. UNIDO received from UNDCP in December 1997 a request for follow-up assistance in reactivating a wool textile factory in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Owing to a subsequent request from the national counterpart to alter the scope and objective, project formulation is pending.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

6. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document.